

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 00942 301818Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 301355Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASH DC 4562
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN
AMEMBASSY SANA YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 942

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IZ, BA
SUBJECT: IRAQI MISSION TO GULF

REF: MANAMA 920

1. FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD AMBASSADOR APRIL 30 THAT WHILE VISIT OF IRAQI DELEGATION TO BAHRAIN WAS "MOSTLY JUST TALK", CONVERSATIONS WERE MORE CANDID THAN GOB HAD EXPECTED. FONMIN SAID GOB HAD PLAYED VISIT BY EAR, LEAVING IT TO IRAQIS TO RAISE CONTENT OF VISIT ABOVE COSMETIC LEVEL IF THEY WISHED. AFTER FIRST FEW ROUNDS OF TALKS, WHICH WERE LARGELY POLITE COSMETICS, IRAQIS DID ASK BAHRAINIS IF THERE WAS ANYTHING GOB WISHED TO RAISE AND, IF SO, IRAQIS WOULD APPRECIATE COMPLETE CANDOR. FONMIN SAID BAHRAINI SIDE THEN RAISED THE TWO ISSUES WHICH GOB FEELS ARE OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE: IRAQ'S TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WITH KUWAIT AND CONTINUING IRAQI "SUBVERSION" OF BAHRAINI STUDENTS IN BAGHDAD.
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2. BAHRAINIS REPORTEDLY TOLD IRAQIS THAT THEIR DISPUTE WITH KUWAIT WAS NOT JUST A BILATERAL PROBLEM BUT ONE OF REAL CONCERN O OTHER AREA STATES. FONMIN SAID HE TOLD IRAQIS THAT THEIR ISOLATION IN THE REGION COULD NOT BE ENDED UNLESS REAL PROGRESS IS MADE TOWARD SETTLEMENT OF THIS BORDER DISPUTE. HE SAID IRAQIS RESPONDED THAT THEY AGREE THAT SETTLEMENT IS NEEDED

AND WILL WORK TOWARD THAT END BUT THAT IS IS NOT THAT SIMPLE.
FONMIN SAID HE LET MATTER DROP ATTHIS BECAUSE IT IS HIS
PERSONAL OPINION THAT DISPUTE WILL NOT BE SETTLED AS LONG AS
PRESIDENT AL-BAKRREMAINS IN OFFICE BECAUSE FOR HIM IT IS A
PERSONAL MATTER ARISING FROM BITTER FEELINGS BETWEEN AL-BAKR
AND MEMBERS OF AL-SABAH FAMILY.

3. BAHRAINIS TOLD IRAQIS TO STOP SUBVERTING AND RADICALIZING
BAHRAINI STUDENTS STUDYING IN BAGHDAD. FONMIN SAID HE ASKED
THAT IRAQ TREAT BAHRAINI STUDENTS JUST AS IT TREATS IRAQI
STUDENTS: IF IRAQ ALLOWS IRAQI STUDENTS IN BAGHDAD TO SPEAK
AND CONSPIRE AGAINST THEIR GOVERNMENT, THEN IT WOULD BE LOGICAL TO
ALLOW BAHRAINI STUDENTS THERE TO SPEAK AND ACT AGAINST GOB.
IF, HOWEVER, IRAQ DOES NOT ALLOW ITS STUDENTS SUCH FREEDOM,
THEN BAHRAINI STUDENTS THERE SHOULD NOT BE ENCOURAGED, AS THEY
HAVE BEEN, TO SPEAK AND ACT AGAINST THEIR COUNTRY. FONMIN
SAID IRAQIS AGREED TO "DO SOMETHING" ABOUT THIS SITUATION.
FONMIN WILL WAIT FOR RESULTS BEFORE JUDGING THE VALUE OF THIS
EXCHANGE.

4. FONMIN SAID HIS GENERAL IMPRESSION WAS THAT IRAQIS WERE
SINCERE IN SEEKING TO LESSEN THEIR ISOLATION IN THE AREA BUT
THAT THEY MAY NOT BE ABLE TO BRING THEMSELVES TO TAKE THE STEPS
THIS WILL REQUIRE. HE OPINED THAT IRAQ HAS SO MANY QARTIES,
FRONTS, COMMITTEES, COUNCILS, AND OTHER POLITICAL AND QUASI-
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT IT HAS GREAT TROUBLE TRANSLATING
ITS WISHES INTO ACTION.
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Message Attributes

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